

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao (6,459,427) in view of Schneier. Although the Examiner did not identify the reference associated with Schneier, the Applicants believe the Examiner is referring to Applied Cryptography: Protocols, Algorithms, and Source Code in C, Second Edition by Bruce Schneier (ISBN: 0471117099).

The Examiner argued that the prior office action filed on 10/07/2004 stated that Mao does not teach or suggest a method of modifying the PCR with conditional access messages. However, the Examiner argued that the claims do not recite modifying the PCR with conditional access messages. Consequently, the Examiner did not find the argument persuasive.

The Applicants agree that the independent claims do not require modifying the PCR with conditional access messages. However, the independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 15 explicitly recite “modifying the PCR field of a transport stream packet.” The applicants in the prior office action filed on 10/07/2004 noted that Mao does not teach any modification of the PCR at all, and more specifically does not teach any modification of the PCR with conditional access messages as the Examiner suggests.

Mao describes a remultiplexer that “can receive single program transport streams or multiple program transport streams through DVB (Digital Video Broadcasting) ASI (Asynchronous Serial Interface) up to 270 Mbps.” (column 5, lines 12-15) “Since each 6 MHz cable channel can only fit about 27 Mbps using 64 QAM modulation, a remultiplexer is required to remultiplex the programs in order to fit into these channels.” (column 5, lines 15-18) “The remultiplexer 70 can perform remultiplexing single or multiple program transport streams into multiple program transport streams at different bit rates, re-assign PID (packet ID), adjust PCR (Program Clock Reference), and modify PAT/PMT (Program Association Table/Program Map Table), and insert conditional access messages such as ECM and EMM.” (column 5, lines 18-24).

Mao notes that the remultiplexer can perform various actions on a transport stream such as adjust PCR, re-assign PID, and insert conditional access messages. However, nowhere does Mao teach or suggest modifying the PCR with conditional access messages as the Examiner

argues. Mao only describes inserting conditional access messages into a transport stream. In fact, Mao does not describe any PCR message modification at all.

The Examiner also argued that the prior office action filed on 10/07/2004 stated that Schneier does not teach or suggest replacing a portion of the timestamp field. However, the Examiner argued that the claims do not recite modifying the timestamp field with a part of said digital signature. Consequently, the Examiner did not find the argument persuasive.

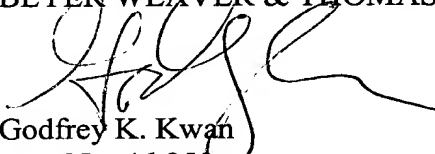
The Applicants agree that the independent claims do not require modifying the timestamp field with a part of said digital signature. However, the independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, and 15 explicitly recite “replacing the portion of the lower bits of the PCR field with all or a part of the digital signature.” The applicants in the prior office action filed on 10/07/2004 noted that Schneier does not recite modifying any field with a digital signature. More specifically, Schneier does not teach or suggest replacing a portion of the timestamp field with “part of said digital signature” as recited in the claims.

Consequently, even if there is proper motivation to combine the references, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the elements recited in the independent claims.

However, to facilitate prosecution, claim amendments have been made to clarify the claims. More specifically, the independent claims 1, 5, 9, and 15 now recite “said PCR field including time stamp information.” Neither Schneier nor Mao teach or suggest “modifying the PCR field.” Schneier and Mao also do not replace “a portion of the PCR with part of said digital signature,” where the “PCR field includes time stamp information.”

In light of the above remarks relating to independent claims, the remaining dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons noted above. Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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